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Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Nepal: Challenges, Progress and Ways Forward

1.0 Overview

Nepal, situated in a unique geological and hydro-meteorological setting of a relatively young and emerging mountain range, is exposed to a number of hazards every year in a regular manner. Lack of land use planning, spontaneous urbanization, poverty and low per capita income, loss of natural vegetation in up-streams together with inadequate preparedness, Nepal's exposure to multi-hazards often turns into medium to serious disasters. The national dataset on disaster, maintained and updated by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA),¹ has recorded 16 kinds of hazard, namely, avalanche, cold wave, drought, earthquake, epidemic, fire, flood, frost, hailstorm, heat wave, landslide, heavy rain (monsoon), snowstorm, storm, thunder storm, and windstorm.

Nepal's exposure to disaster risks is further heightened by extreme weather conditions and climate change impacts.² Water-induced disasters are few in number (namely flash flood and landslide). Despite being the most predictable events, floods and landslides are causing greater human sufferings every year. In terms of human loss, epidemic, earthquake, landslide, flood, fire, and thunderstorm appear as the key hazards claiming more lives (MoHA 2017). Fire, flood, hailstorm, landslide and earthquake, however, are responsible for heavy loss of private, public property and livelihoods. The 1934 Bihar-Nepal earthquake, the 1988 Udayapur earthquake, the 1993 flood in central parts of Nepal, the 2008 Koshi flood, the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, and the 2017 floods are the recent major disasters in the country.

¹ There are also few other datasets available. The MoHA dataset is now maintained in Nepal DRR Portal by National Emergency Operation Centre. Alternatively, National Society of Earthquake Technology (N-SET) also maintains DesInventar database. Thirdly, Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) also maintains its own dataset of disaster events in Nepal but there is wider gap of NRCS dataset with MoHA dataset. Finally, Department of Water-Induced Disaster Management (D-WIDP) also publishes national data on water-induced disaster loss annually.

² They include avalanche, cold wave, drought, frost, hailstorm, heat wave, snowstorm, storm, thunder storm, windstorm, among others.

Although not a recurrent phenomenon, earthquake is the most tragic seismological hazard resulting into serious humanitarian crises.³ The Gorkha Earthquake 2015 alone resulted into 8,970 casualties, 22,302 injuries and more than 1,000,000 houses and heritage sites damaged or destroyed. On the whole one-third of the population was affected by this earthquake (NPC 2015). Government of Nepal immediately launched relief and recovery operations amidst overwhelming voluntary supports from communities, academia, media, CBOs, NGOs, INGOs, private sector, bilateral and multi-lateral development partners, and friendly nations. The *Post Disaster Needs Assessment* (PDNA), accomplished within a month of the earthquake, not only did an assessment of the damage and loss, it also outlined a recovery strategy together with an estimation of recovery cost for 23 thematic areas.⁴

The PDNA also recommended that the post-earthquake recovery and reconstruction had to be "multi-pronged effort with a strong orientation toward the poorest and the most vulnerable" with support from the private sector, NGOs, and international development partners (NPC 2015).

2.0 Disaster Profile of Nepal

Nepal has fragile geology and steep topography that makes the country 20th most disaster prone country in the world. With regard to the relative vulnerability to climate change related hazard, earthquake and flood hazard, Nepal ranks, respectively, in the 4th, 11th and 30th in the world. Nepal faces disaster impacts of high magnitude and intensity from a multitude of natural hazards.

Table 1 reveals more than a dozen of hazards in Nepal, covering a period of 47 years (1971 to 2017). During the period, a total of 24,463 disaster events have been recorded. Hence, annually, Nepal is exposed to above 500 events of disaster. The dataset shows that fire is one of the most recurrent hazards in Nepal. Number of fire incidences was recorded 10,217 times, followed by flood (4,292 times), epidemic (3,456 times) and landslide (3,406 times).

Epidemic is critically important in the sense that it is one of the single most killer hazards claiming the lives of more than 16,585 people (41 percent of the total disasters-induced deaths) during the period. It is followed by earthquake, landslide and flood. Table 1 also reveals the number of persons injured, number of houses and heritages damaged or destroyed, and the number of families affected due to these disasters. It reveals that the number of persons injured due to disasters is nearly double (a total of 79,702 persons) than the number of death. Further, it is important to note that epidemic and

³ Note that Nepal is considered the 11th most earthquake-prone country in the world (NPC, 2015).

⁴ The PDNA came up with an estimation of US\$ 6.7 billion for the rehabilitation and reconstruction costs over a number of years, which the Government later revised the figure to nearly US\$ 8 billion.

earthquake are the two most important disasters in terms of human injury – that resulted into injury of an absolute large number of people (92 percent of the total).

Table 1: Major disaster in Nepal and loss, 1971-2017

Type of disaster	Number of incidents	Human loss				Houses damaged or destroyed*
		Death	Missing	Injured	No. of family affected	
Fire	10,217	1,666	28	1,826	262,581	88,513
Thunderbolt	1,898	1,705	129	2,915	7,394	998
Landslide	3,406	5,051	179	1,919	562,067	37,255
Wind storm	101	7	-	55	780	405
Flood	4,292	4,614	82	606	3,717,698	223,378
Epidemic	3,456	16,585	-	43,155	513,010	-
Avalanche	3	17	4	7	1	-
Snow storm	5	87	7	-	-	-
Hailstones	131	9	-	24	3,280	155
Earthquake	175	9,771	-	29,142	890,995	982,855
Cold wave	390	515	-	83	2,393	-
Structural collapse	389	404	-	596	2,016	1,793
Total	24,463	40,431	429	80,328	5,962,215	1,335,352
(Annual average)	(520)	(860)	(9)	(1,709)	(126,856)	(28,412)

Source: MoHA, 2018.

* This includes animal sheds also.

In terms of property loss, during the period of last 45 years, a total of 1,335,352 houses, including cattle sheds, are either destroyed or damaged. Of this, 982,855 (or 73.6 percent) houses were destroyed by earthquake alone, followed by flood. Likewise, a total of 5,962,215 families have been affected by 12 main disasters, of which flood is attributed to affecting a large number of families (62.4 percent of the total), followed by earthquake, epidemic, and landslide.⁵

This brief account of disaster profile of Nepal attests that Nepal is a country exposed to multi-hazards of very many kinds, some of which are predictable and routine in nature. A geographically tiny country such as this yet suffering from so many hazards often transformed into disasters is rare in the world. Further, time-series data reveal that, damage, loss and human sufferings due to these disasters are increasing noticeably in the country over the years.

⁵ While interpreting Table 1, it is to be noted that the Gorkha Earthquake 2015 accounts for dramatically changing the disaster profile of the country - as this single event of disaster resulted into larger number of casualties, injuries and destructions.

3.0 National Recovery Initiatives for the 2015 Gorkha Earthquake and the 2017 Floods

2015 Earthquake. On Saturday, 25 April 2015, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Barpak in the mid-Hill district of Gorkha, about 76 km northwest of Kathmandu. Nepal had not faced a natural shock of comparable magnitude for over 80 years. The catastrophic earthquake was followed by more than 450 aftershocks greater than magnitude 4.0 in Richter scale. Four aftershocks were greater than magnitude 6.0, including one measuring 6.8 that struck 17 days after the first big one.

Almost one-third of the population of had been impacted by the earthquake. Over a million houses including cultural heritage structures were destroyed or damaged. Among 75, fourteen districts were declared 'crisis-hit' for the purpose of prioritizing rescue and relief operations and other seventeen districts were declared 'partially affected.' The destruction was widespread covering residential and government buildings, heritage sites, schools and health posts, rural roads, bridges, water supply systems, agricultural land, trekking routes, hydropower plants and sports facilities. Several field studies show that natural water sources have dried up after the earthquake. Water for drinking and irrigation is being a major challenge in some hilly and mountain areas of Nepal after the earthquake (PAF 2016).

Nepal's National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF), developed just two years earlier, served as a key tool for coordination the of response, taking decisions and assigning instructions to different tiers. The first meeting of the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) was within three hours of the earthquake, with the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) immediately providing an initial report to the CNDRC, recommending a focus on Search and Rescue (SAR), and lifesaving actions. Financial resources from the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund were immediately allocated, and the government's cluster mechanism (comprised of 11 clusters) was instantly activated.

Government of Nepal immediately made an official request for international assistance within hours of the earthquake. Several meetings with donor communities were convened to seek international support for SAR and for other immediate relief operations. With the limited trained human resource and equipment, Nepal Army (NA), Nepal Police (NP) and Armed Police Force (APF) together carried out effective SAR operations. They were backstopped by dozens of international military SAR teams under the Multi-National Military Coordination Centre. The network of NGOs and INGOs based in Nepal swiftly rallied to support community relief efforts. National and international teams (especially of youth and professionals like doctors and engineers) were voluntarily mobilized in treatment of the injured, setting up temporary shelters, and supplying foods and non-food items.

On 25 December 2015 (2072) the Government established **National Reconstruction Authority (NRA)** for a period of five years to lead and manage the huge tasks of recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation. The NRA's overall goal is to promptly complete the reconstruction works of the infrastructures destroyed or damaged by the earthquake with the Build Back Better approach. It has formulated a Post Disaster Recovery Framework (PDRF) (2016-2020) on the basis of PDNA. The government has sufficiently allocated budget for reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery initiatives.

2017 Floods. Nepal experienced continuous rainfall from August 11 to 14, 2017, resulting in widespread flooding across 35 of the country's 77 districts. 18 districts were severely affected mainly in Tarai, flat plain area. This led to the inundation of about 80 per cent of the land in significant parts of the Tarai region. The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology recorded the highest ever mean rainfall of 1,800 mm, substantially exceeding the average of 1,200 mm in the recent past.

The monsoon in Nepal is both a productive and hazardous resource. When it brings the right amount of rain, agriculture production soars, when there is excess, it causes tremendous loss of life and property. During monsoon cloudbursts, landslide and flash floods occur in the mountain and floods and inundation in the Tarai.

This emergency came at a time when Nepal was already struggling to recover from the 2015 earthquake, with much reconstruction and recovery works still to be accomplished. Five of the current flood affected districts were also the earthquake affected districts, while four of the current flood affected districts were hit by large scale floods in 2014 also, and were yet to fully recover (UN ORC 2017).

According to the Post Flood Recovery Need Assessment (NPC 2017), more than 190,000 houses were destroyed or partially damaged, displacing tens of thousands of people and rendering many homeless. Household assets and food grains were damaged and the affected communities faced shortage of food, water and non-food items. Many suffered infections from contaminated water. In comparison to the past floods of 2001 and 2008 (that killed 1,673 people), the 2017 floods saw reduced mortality and injuries. Government's swift response aimed at search and rescue is credited for this. For example, the Government undertook more than 100 helicopter flights to rescue the stranded and injured and to deliver aid. The number of people who died in the 18 most affected districts was 134, out of which 44 were female. The flood affected 1,688 million people (of which 51% were male and 49% female).

Immediately following the floods, the Government of Nepal activated the Humanitarian Cluster System, resulting an efficient coordination and immediate response to the needs emerging in the affected districts. The government mobilized 27,000 security personnel and civil servants to support the relief efforts. The government mobilized its emergency stockpile to meet the immediate humanitarian needs and allocated over USD 11.5 million towards the first phase relief activities. Several friendly nations, UN, I/NGOs, development partners provided humanitarian assistance of USD 6.55 million for immediate response. The government distributed NRs. 200,000 each to the next of kin of those deceased by the flood and NRs. 10,000 to each to families whose house had been destroyed.

It is estimated that 2017 floods caused total of USD 584.7 million losses and USD 705.1 million required to meet the recovery needs (PFRNA 2017, NPC). Government formed a Flood Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project on 23 October 2017 and placed it under the NRA.

4.0 Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks

The Constitution of Nepal, 2015. Nepal’s current constitution (2015) mentions disaster risk management (DRM) in the country for the first time and it has clearly assigned DRM as a concurrent responsibility of different tiers of governments, particularly the local governments. Article 51 stipulates the policies to be pursued by the state. The sub-article G that relates to “policies relating to protection, promotion and use of natural resources,” mentions that the state shall formulate policies on development of sustainable and reliable irrigation by controlling water-induced disasters and expediting river management.

Article 51(G) (9) of the Constitution states that the State shall pursue policies relating to, among several other issues, protection, promotion and use of natural resources. Sub-article 51(G)9 also allows Government to make policies related to “advance warning, preparedness, rescue, relief and rehabilitation in order to mitigate risks from natural disasters.” Further, Article 267 of the Constitution gives the Government rights to mobilize Nepal Army in DRM. The Constitution says, “The Government of Nepal may also mobilize the Nepal Army in, among other things, the disaster management works, as provided for in the Federal law.”

Article 273 of the Constitution gives the President several emergency powers. Article 273 (2) says, “if there arises a grave emergency in a Province because of a natural calamity or epidemic, the concerned Province government may request the Government of Nepal to declare a state of emergency in respect of the whole of the Province or of any specified part thereof.”

Constitution of Nepal has clearly stipulated that DRM is a shared responsibility of all levels of governments (Table 2). The constitution clearly states that natural and human induced disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and rehabilitation responsibility falls under the concurrent power/ jurisdiction of federal and provincial government. Of the 22 tasks assigned to local level, DRM is one of them (Schedule 8). In the list of concurrent powers of federal, provincial and local level, DRM is put as one of the subjects (Schedule 9) – implying that DRM is a shared responsibility of every layer of governance system, but more so at downward level.

Table 2 : Constitutional provisions on DRM responsibility

Schedule	Subject of schedule	Provision related to DRM
Solo power		
5	Federal Powers/Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use policy, housing development policy, tourism policy, environment adaptation (#29)
6	Provincial Powers/Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land management (#16) Forest, water and environment mgmt. (#19)
8	Local Level Powers/Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster management (#20)
Concurrent power		
7	Federal and Provincial Powers/Jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural and man-made disaster preparedness, rescue, relief and rehabilitation (#17)
9	Federation, Provincial and Local Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster management (#9)

On 24 September 2017, the legislative-parliament unanimously passed a new Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017. In many respects, the Act is considered progressive and comprehensive than the then Natural Calamity Relief Act, 1982 since it also recognizes risk reduction as an important and integral part of risk management. The Act proposes a clear multi-tier institutional structure of disaster risk reduction and management at the center, the provinces, the districts and the local levels. It further fosters the principles of risk-informed development and comprehensive approach for managing disaster risks.

The first meeting of the National Council for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management held on 18 June 2018 endorsed the Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030). This meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K. P. Oli. The policy and strategic plan was developed to effectively implement the DRR & M Act (2017) in line with the SFDRR.

Box 1: Existing legal and policy framework on DRM

- Constitution of Nepal (2015)
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017
- Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan (2018 – 2030)
- Local Governance Operation (LGO) Act 2017
- National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA)
- Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA)
- National Disaster Response Framework, 2013
- Guidance Note on Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning, 2011
- Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) Guideline, 2011
- Dead Body Management Guidelines, 2011
- National Strategic Action Plan for Search and Rescue, 2014
- District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans

Finally, in order to strengthen cross-sectoral planning and coordination in the field DRM, DRR and CRM focal points have been established in key ministries and agencies. These focal points work in a harmonized manner to ensure that risk reduction is mainstreamed within their respective ministries.

5.0 Global and Regional Commitments

Government of Nepal has been actively participating in all world conferences on disaster management (Yokohama, 1994; Hyogo 2005; Sendai 2015 and AMCDRR 2016), global platforms which occurs in two year intervals from 2007 onwards, and in the Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia. Moreover, Nepal is one of the signatories to these world conferences and has expressed commitment to fulfill its obligations and priority action within the given time frame.

Yokohama, Japan (1994): The first world conference on disaster management was held in Yokohama, Japan in 1994 where Nepal participated and presented a national action plan on disaster management. Government of Nepal had prepared "National Action Plan on Disaster Management in 1996" incorporating all disaster management cycle and the Yokohama Strategy.

Hyogo, Japan (2005 - 2015): The second world conference on disaster reduction was held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan in 2005 and Nepal participated and endorsed the goals and priorities for action between 2005 and 2015. Integration of DRR into sustainable development, develop and strengthen institutions to build resilience to hazards and emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs were the major goals of HFA.

Sendai, Japan (2015 - 2030): The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was adopted in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015. The SFDRR's four priorities for action will be achieved by 2030.

AMCDRR, Mongolia (2018): The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR 2018) endorsed the Asian Regional Plan for the implementation of the SFDRR for 15 years (2016 – 2030) with specific targets and be achieved by 2020, 2022 and 2030. The regional plan will be monitored in every two year period at regional level.

Nepal being an UN member state and signatory to the global and regional commitments (BIMESTEC, SAARC – DMC, etc.) is entitled to fulfill its obligations related to disaster management. Nepal is trying its best with its limited trained human resources and financial resources to achieve all the priorities for action by 2030. However, Nepal needs further technical support and guidance from development partners and friendly nations.

6.0 Key National Progress

Nepal has achieved notable progress in DRM during the last few decades. A number of legal, institutional and policy frameworks are already in place. The New Constitution of Nepal, 2015 has made provisions of disaster management in different levels of governments. To effectively pursue DRM initiatives in the country the Government has also enacted a set of new policy frameworks, comprised of DRR & M Act (2017), and Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan (2018 – 2030).

Several large scale disasters in Nepal have created a momentum to improve DRM policy and institutional mechanisms. The National Building Code was developed in 1996 after the 1988 Udayapur earthquake. Three Sectoral Groups (Food and Agriculture, Health and Logistics) were formed after the 1993 floods in Central parts of Nepal. These three groups were lead then Ministry of Agriculture Development, Health and Home Affairs respectively. The 2015 Gorkha earthquake was one of the triggering factors to enact the DRR & M Act (2017), mentioned above.

All concerned line ministries have assigned one senior officer as the Disaster and Climate Change Focal Person. Hence there is a good pool of human resources dedicated to DRM/CRM front that has fostered sharing and exchange of ideas and coordination. Similarly, Government has given priority to streamline DRR into development planning process. In addition, community based disaster management activities in different disaster prone communities have been initiated and have proved to be instrumental for raising awareness and revitalizing self-help spirit at community level.

Government of Nepal has also prepared and implemented a fifteen-year Sustainable Development Agenda of Nepal (2015-2030), in which DRM has been an integral component. Similarly, Government has incorporated disaster management subjects in school curricula since the mid 1990s. Several academic and educational institutions have started various programs on disaster management. Now, majority of the schools have the school safety programs and School Disaster Management Plan in place. Similarly, hospital preparedness programs are also being implemented by the Government of Nepal in public and private sectors. Likewise, Ministry of Health has established the Health Emergency Operation Center, which is well connected with the National Emergency Operational Centre (NEOC) at the MoHA.

The NEOC has been established and operationalized at national level and is functioning smoothly. There are more than four dozen Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) at regional and district levels. The NEOC and EOCs are functioning for collecting and coordinating disaster related information, response, immediate relief and humanitarian assistance.

A total of 83 open spaces have been identified within Kathmandu Valley for shelter in the event of major disasters and in few open spaces infrastructure development is under construction. Efforts are being made to ensure supply of safe drinking water, emergency kits, and shelter with warehouse capacity.

Implementation of Nepal Building Code (NBC) has been made mandatory in all municipalities. Likewise, mason trainings on safe building construction practices as per the NBC are being organized by both government and no-government organizations.

The establishment and institutionalization of an authentic and open DRM System, GIS based Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) have been initiated. The DRR portal has been operational for collection, analysis and dissemination of information.

Cluster approach has been institutionalized for effective implementation and better coordination in disaster management. There are 11 clusters in operation (namely, food security, health, nutrition, water

and sanitation, education, protection, emergency shelter, logistics, emergency communication, and early recovery).

The Government has already initiated a process to operationalize the medium and light Search and Rescue (SAR) teams as well. Moreover, Get Airport Ready (GAR) is another significant activity Nepal has initiated. Establishment of the Humanitarian Staging Area is one of the major activities under the GAR initiative. The establishment of the Disaster Preparedness Network (DP Net) was another milestone to foster coordination among DRM related government and non-government agencies and serve as a bridge between them. The establishment of the Disaster Management Training Center by the Armed Police Force is a commendable initiative to raise its trained human resources.

Government is also in process to establish regional warehouses in each of the seven provinces of the country. Such province level warehouses will also be linked with EOC at different the level. Likewise, with the technical support of development partners, early warning system (EWS) have been established in few major river systems and linked with both the EOCs and communities. Such few established “end to end” EWS have proved to be very useful to save lives and properties in flood prone districts of the country. Government is in process to strengthen the EWS in all flood prone districts of the country.

Since the early 2000, Government has been initiating different processes to mainstream DRR and CCA into development plan. Recently, National Planning Commission has developed a guideline to mainstream DRR and CCA into development plan at national and sectoral levels. In addition, many I development partners, in close coordination with the government, have been implementing child center DRR, capacity building of physically challenged persons in relation to DRM, gender sensitive/ inclusive CBDRM, and risk transfer schemes (crop and livestock insurances) in different disaster prone districts.

7.0 Challenges

Since the declaration of the new constitution in September 2015, Nepal is passing through a transition of state restructuring (from a unitary centralized system of governance to a federal decentralized one) in which promulgation of new legislations form the core priorities of the government. With the completion of three levels of elections (local, province and federal) and a majority government in place, it is anticipated that several activities in line with DRR & M Act 2017, strategic action plan (2018-2030) SFDRR and regional commitments will be successfully implemented in the future. In this context, the major challenges that Nepal faces in the field of DRM are as follows:

1. Despite on-going efforts on mainstreaming DRR & CCA into development planning, it is moving in full swing, the process has faced several setbacks and challenges due to inadequate technical skills and willingness for shift to a new way of development planning. Further, disjoint remains in approaches for integrating DRR and CCA into national planning.

2. As evident by Gorkaha Earthquake of 2015, Nepal's capability to respond to mega disaster is highly constrained by lack of high-tech equipment and capacities to run effective SAR. Also it lacks capacities in mobilizing international humanitarian support at the real time of emergencies.
3. Nepal needs to raise its technical and functional capacities to fully utilize available expertise, experiences, research, and human resources available within and outside the region. Nepal can benefit from cross learning between the countries in the area of early warning, raising technical skills, DIMS and information sharing, GIS based multi-hazard risk assessment and developing capacities for risk informed planning.
4. Nepal's disaster information system needs serious improvements. Disaster information so far remains scattered, scanty and not fully synchronized to a national system, which constrain making timely analysis of loss and damage, and building scenarios for future impacts that could have helped in better planning for preparedness, response, risk reduction and ultimately resilience enhancement.
5. Large scale capacity building in the field of DRM and early warning system at all levels of government (local, province and federal) is a pre-requisite for making Nepal a disaster resilient nation.

8.0 Ways forward

Despite of several challenges faced by the country, Nepal is striving hard to reduce disaster risk and improve its response capacity.

Based on the progress made since the commencement of the IDNDR and HFA, and lessons learnt from past efforts of responding to disasters, Nepal has enacted the forward looking DRR & M Act (2017) and the Policy and Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030). Based on the national priority and global and regional commitments, following activities are the way forward to make Nepal a disaster resilient nation:

1. Government is committed to successful implementation of the NDRR & M Act (2017), Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan (2018 – 2030), and the global (SFDRR and SDGs) and regional (AMCDRR) commitments.
2. Based on thorough understanding of risk at all levels, risk informed approach of development planning will be pursued at all levels and across the sectors to integrate principles and practice of DRR and CCA into planning and budgeting followed by regular monitoring and evaluations.
3. With a priority to engage whole of the government into risk reduction agenda and learning from experiences of other countries, a new institutional set up for disaster risk management - from national to sub-national levels- in line with new federal system of governance is on-going.
4. To achieve the goal of resilient Nepal, emphasis will be given on fostering partnership with non-state actors, private sector and international agencies for effective disaster risk reduction and response and promote "culture of safety" at all levels and across the society.
5. Learning from the Gorkha Earthquake of 2015 and the floods of 2017, Disaster response preparedness and response activities will be strengthened at all levels through provisions of

adequate logistics, capacities, guidelines and SOP, and establishment of medium and light SAR teams.

6. A network of EOCs and EWS will be developed and further strengthened to support emergency response planning and coordination of humanitarian actions linked to recovery work that directly result into saving lives and building livelihoods.
7. A national level disaster management information system (DMIS) will be established by the government to produce authentic statistics on disaster loss and damage, analysis and trend, and report on anticipated disaster in order to guide priority setting for disaster management planning at national and sub-national levels and support in decision making.
8. Government will initiate a massive program on community based disaster management activities in all disaster prone areas (both urban and rural) of the county based on the experiences from 2015 earthquakes and 2017 floods, and will ensure developing a mechanism to mobilize youth, volunteers and self-help groups in a massive scale at the time of disasters.
9. Government is committed to develop a mechanism for cross-learning between countries about knowledge, research and experience relevant to disaster risk management and creating platforms for disaster information sharing between Nepal and neighboring countries. Likewise, cross learning among and across the sectors such as academia, private sector is also vital.